

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 OES-02 SS-14 SP-02 L-01 IO-06
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P 061549Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8686

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 7796

STADIS//////////

LIMDIS

FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLOS, VE
SUBJECT: LOS: VENEZUELAN ROLE AT SIXTH SESSION

REF: A. STATE 182381, B. CARACAS 7795

1. I AM INTENSELY OPPOSED TO ARTICLE BY AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON FOR EL NACIONAL. THIS WOULD COMPLICATE RELATIONS WITH AGUILAR AS WELL AS WITH GOV. NOTE THAT AGUILAR IS WRITING AN ARTICLE; I SUSPECT EL NACIONAL WANTS TO WHIPSAW THE ISSUE BETWEEN THEM. THE MOMENT IS DELICATE, BUT I THINK RIPE, FOR CONTACTS TO INFLUENCE THE GOV, BUT AN ARTICLE IS THE WRONG WAY TO DO IT. I RECOGNIZE THE DESIRABILITY OF GETTING OUR VIEWS ACROSS TO THE PUBLIC, BUT A SIGNED ARTICLE WOULD ONLY BECOME A LIGHTENING ROD AND ATTRACT POLEMICS. I SUGGEST THAT WE WAIT AND SEE WHAT AGUILAR WRITES AND THEN DETERMINE WHETHER IF AND HOW SOME SORT OF REPLY OUGHT TO BE MADE BY US.

2. I BELIEVE THAT A MESSAGE TO AGUILAR WOULD BE VERY
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MUCH IN ORDER AND WOULD IN FACT BE PARTICULARLY NEEDED NOW. IN THIS CONNECTION I NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

A. AGUILAR DENIES THAT THE NACIONAL INTERVIEW REFLECTED HIS VIEWS (REFTEL B) AND HE DID NOT IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH ME DEFEND THE PROCESS WHICH PRODUCED THE SEABED TEXT. IN DEFENDING HIS OWN PROCEDURES HE

OBLIQUELY SUPPORTED OUR VIEWS.

B. AGUILAR'S "TILT" TOWARD THE THIRD WORLD POSITION REFLECTS, I AM CONVINCED, LESS HIS OWN PERSONAL CONVICTIONS THAN THE POSITION AND STRATEGY OF HIS OWN GOVERNMENT. IT IS IMPORTANT IN THIS CONNECTION TO RECOGNIZE THE GOV PREMISE IS THAT TO ACHIEVE THE CHANGE IN THE RULES OF THE GAME THE G-77 WANTS (NIEO), THE THIRD WORLD MUST STAND UNITED, MUST SPEAK UP STRONGLY TO THE U.S., AND SHOULD LINK MATTERS TOGETHER, E.G. OPEC, OIL PRICE AND NORTH-SOUTH; TNC CODE OF CONDUCT AND ILLEGAL PAYMENTS, ETC. THE AUTHOR OF THIS STRATEGY IS PEREZ GUERRERO. STRONGLY SUPPORTING HIM IN CONCEPT AND CONVICTION IS THE NEW VENEZUELAN FOREIGN MINISTER, SIMON ALBERTO CONSALVI. (CONSALVI WAS UNTIL JULY VENEZUELAN REP TO THE UN, WAS A MEMBER OF PEREZ' OFFICIAL PARTY IN THAT CAPACITY, AND WAS PRESENT AT SECRETARY'S LUNCH FOR PEREZ, SITTING ACROSS FROM AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON, AS I REMEMBER). PRESIDENT PEREZ IS INFLUENCED BY PEREZ GUERRERO AND CONSALVI, RATHER THAN VICE VERSA. HENCE THEY ARE THE ONES WE SHOULD KEEP OUR EYE ON. THEY ARE PRACTICAL MEN, ALTHOUGH SINCERE IN THEIR ASPIRATIONS, AND NOT IRRATIONALLY DOCTRINAIRE. IN SHORT, ONE CAN WORK WITH THEM, MORE I SUSPECT WITH CONSALVI THAN PEREZ GUERRERO.

C. AGUILAR, AND I WOULD GUESS THE OTHERS, ARE
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DISTURBED THAT WE MIGHT REALLY PULL OUT. I THINK THEY ARE DISPOSED TO CONTINUE TO FIND SOME SOLUTION, THOUGH THEY WILL STILL CLING DOGGEDLY TO THEIR BASIC PREMISES. IN ANY CASE, NOW IS THE TIME TO THROW OUT A LINE TO THEM.

D. IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE BEST TACTIC WOULD BE A MESSAGE TO AGUILAR AS RICHARDSON'S COUNTERPART. A LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT FROM RICHARDSON WOULD RAISE THEIR PROTOCOLARY EYEBROWS AND THEIR SENSITIVITIES. HE WOULD ONLY TURN IT OVER TO CONSALVI ANYWAY.

E. AT THE SAME TIME, IF A MESSAGE IS SENT TO AGUILAR, I WOULD LIKE AUTHORIZATION TO PROVIDE A COPY SIMULTANEOUSLY TO CONSALVE WITH PERHAPS A COVERING MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON STATING HE IS PROVIDING THIS AS A COURTESY AND REPEATING ANY POINTS HE WISHES TO MAKE.

F. AN ALTERNATIVE, WOULD BE FOR A MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY VANCE TO CONSALVI (AS COLLEAGUES) MAKING ALL THE SAME POINTS AND A BRIEF MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON TO AGUILAR TRANSMITTING A COPY OF SECRETARY'S MESSAGE IN PARALLEL FASHION WITH WHATEVER PERSONAL NOTES

HE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE. ALL TOLD, I WOULD PREFER THIS AS THE MOST "CORRECT," BUT EITHER THIS OR (E) ABOVE WOULD DO.

G. IDEALLY, IT WOULD BE BEST TO WAIT UNTIL OUR OWN INTERNAL REVIEW IS COMPLETED. BUT I TAKE IT THIS WILL TAKE SOME TIME. I DO NOT THINK WE SHOULD WAIT TO MAKE SOME APPROACH TO THE GOV. ESPECIALLY RECOGNIZING THAT THE GOV IS GOING TO MEET THIS WEEK (REFTEL B), WE SHOULD COME IN FAST TO KEEP THEM FROM FREEZING POSITIONS. I ASSUME WE COULD SEND A FOLLOW-UP REPRESENTATION AFTER OUR REVIEW-- WE MIGHT EVEN PROMISE IT.

3. OBVIOUSLY, THE DESIRABILITY OF SENDING A MESSAGE
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DEPENDS TO SOME DEGREE, TOO, ON WHAT WE WANT TO SAY. I WOULD SUGGEST THAT AT THIS STAGE IT SHOULD GO LIGHT ON ARGUING SUBSTANCE. THE PURPOSE WHICH I WOULD ADVOCATE WOULD BE: A) TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION TO AGUILAR AND HIS PRINCIPLES FOR HIS COMPORTMENT; B) TO ACKNOWLEDGE PRESIDENT PEREZ' AND CONSALVI'S INTEREST IN LOS; AND C) GENERALLY TO ENCOURAGE PEREZ, CONSALVI AND AGUILAR TO COOPERATE WITH US AND TO BE SENSITIVE TO OUR CONCERNS AND NEEDS, ESPECIALLY TO THE NEED FOR OPEN NEGOTIATING PROCESSES. THE LAST POINT SHOULD BE MADE FIRMLY, BUT I DO NOT THINK NEED BE ARGUED, I.E. I DO NOT THINK WE SHOULD ASSUME THAT VENEZUELA DISAGREES WITH US ON THE NEED FOR OPEN NEGOTIATING PROCEDURES. THE TONE OF ANY MESSAGE SHOULD BE FIRM, GENTLE AND CALM, RATHER THAN STRIDENT OR FORCEFUL. IN SHORT, I THINK THE GOV WANTS TO RENEW DISCUSSION WITH US, DOES NOT WANT US TO BACK OUT, AND THAT AN OPPORTUNITY THEREFORE DOES EXIST FOR ENCOURAGING THEM TO BE CONSTRUCTIVE AND WORK WITH US AT THIS POINT.

4. IN SUM, MY RECOMMENDATIONS ARE: A) NO ARTICLE; B) SEND A MESSAGE EITHER FROM SECRETARY TO CONSALVI, OR FROM AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON TO AGUILAR, WITH COPY TO THE OTHER IN EITHER CASE; C) IT SHOULD BE A SHORT MESSAGE STRESSING NEED FOR COOPERATION AND WITH CONSTRUCTIVE CALM TONE.

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Message Attributes

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